

# Ontario-Montclair

## School District

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SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

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*Superintendent*

May 21, 2020

Dear OMSD students, staff, families, and community:

When we began the 2019-2020 school year, none of us imagined that we would be completing the final months of the academic year from our homes with distance learning. Although the final weeks of school looked and felt different this year, I am extremely proud of the resiliency, creativity, empathy, and care shown by students, families, certificated personnel, classified support staff, and administrators. Each of you have further inspired and humbled me these last few months.

Distance learning was forced upon us, however, each one of you has stepped up during this unforeseen pandemic to engage students, provide high-level instruction, and demonstrate distinguished compassion in conjunction with finding opportunities to celebrate one another.

We have relied on teamwork during these final months, and now look forward to providing a Virtual Summer Program, which is designed to support and build individual academic success for our students. The OMSD Virtual Summer Program is the perfect opportunity for all OMSD students to remain connected throughout the summer to their school through interactive and innovative activities that promotes ongoing learning.

Students participating in the OMSD Summer Virtual Summer Program will be able to use a district Chromebook. This means students who currently have an OMSD device and are committed to enrolling in OMSD in the Fall, will be able to continue using their device throughout the summer. Students who need access to a device will be able to check out a Chromebook for the duration of the summer. There is an area in the [online summer program application](#) to request a device. The application can be found on our district website at [omsd.net](http://omsd.net).

OMSD is scheduled to begin the 2020-2021 school year on August 6, 2020; as such, we remain focused on the best and safest way to begin school. In the weeks ahead, the District will continue to work closely with the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools Office, San Bernardino Public Health Department, California Department of Education and Governor Newsom's office to formulate appropriate plans to ensure an exceptional learning experience continues in OMSD for all students in accordance with state and county guidelines.

**"Our Community, Our Children, Our Commitment, Our Future"**

To help create plans on the options and recommendations of how best to return to school, a comprehensive Return to School Committee comprised of teachers, classified support staff, and district administrators has been established. Within this advisory task group, six sub-committees have been formed to look at specific areas, which includes Governance, Instruction, Wellness, Facilities, School/Satellite Operations, and Technology.

While all of these groups meet weekly to work on recommendations, at this time, no decisions have been made on a specific “Return to School Plan”. I have also taken steps to visit with additional OMSD teachers, classified staff and administrators to receive further input on how the return to school will look for OMSD this Fall. The combination of both groups will provide a needed perspective from every school site and division within OMSD on how best to safely reopen schools, and what must be accomplished to best protect the health and safety of students, families and staff. Any decisions regarding school calendars, flexible schedules for teaching and support staff and impacts on student learning will be discussed collectively and collaboratively.

At this time, OMSD is asking parents and staff to complete a *ThoughtExchange* survey. This survey asks participants to consider a single question and allows for a virtual exchange of ideas with one another. This is the first of two surveys and your participation is needed to help identify the preferences of our stakeholders as we make decisions for returning to school. [Please click here to participate in our first survey](#). OMSD will administer an additional survey to OMSD parents, families and staff in the summer to understand the concerns and preferences from our stakeholders, as we consider the best methods and practices to reopen schools.

Although these decisions will take much time, consideration and planning, I am confident in our mission to ensure each student attending an OMSD school in the 2020-2021 school year will have a positive experience and continue to receive a world-class education. Any “Return to School Plan” that is agreed upon, will have ample time for implementation, planning and any necessary training prior to August 6, 2020.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for your continued partnership. We are both appreciative and grateful for the teamwork that has been exhibited the last two months amongst our district staff, parents, families and community.

Sincerely,  
James Q. Hammond, Ed.D.  
Superintendent